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09108022 19980630 US GRANTED parent-patent 5963962 US child 09108022 19980630
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Summary of Invention Paragraph - BSTX:

[0025] The present invention also creates snapshots, which are virtual read-only copies of the file system. A snapshot uses no disk space when it is initially created. It is designed so that many different snapshots can be created for the same file system. Unlike prior art file systems that create a clone by duplicating the entire inode file and all of the indirect blocks, the present invention duplicates only the inode that describes the inode file. Thus, the actual disk space required for a snapshot is only the 128 bytes used to store the duplicated inode. The 128 bytes of the present invention required for a snapshot is significantly less than the many megabytes used for a clone in the prior art.